

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 7-12 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,708,017 to Yamanaka et al. Without conceding to the propriety of the rejection, Applicants respectfully submit herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) to overcome the rejection. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 7-12 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting be withdrawn.

Inasmuch as the outstanding grounds of rejection of Claims 7-12 have been overcome, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of Claims 7-12.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 7-12 is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/729,962

Reply to Office Action of September 15, 2004

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Customer Number

22850

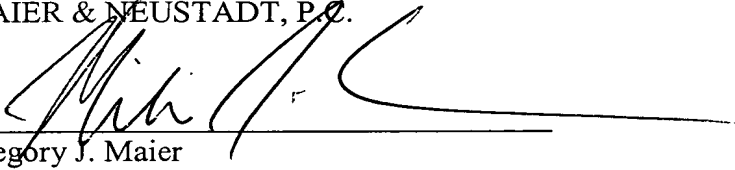
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(OSMMN 06/04)

Respectfully submitted,

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